

# The Flow

*Delivering News from the Carson River Watershed Community*

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## Spring 2015

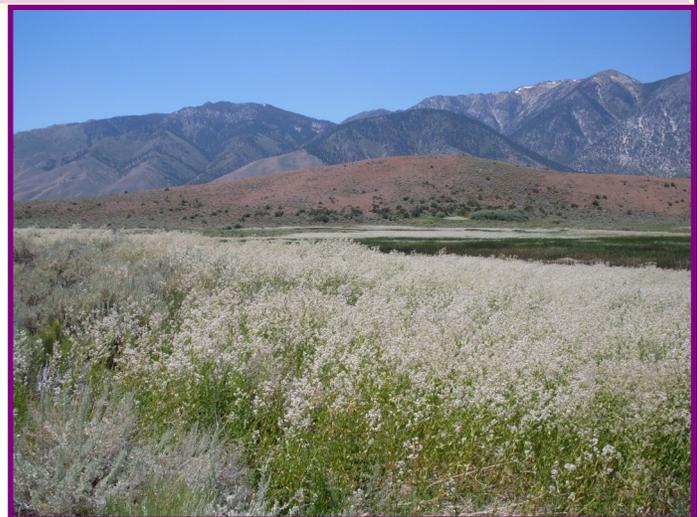
### Noxious Weeds are the Landowner's Responsibility

By Jamie Greer, Nevada Department of Agriculture

Noxious weeds, or invasive plants, continue to invade and degrade various ecosystems throughout Nevada. The negative impacts associated with noxious weeds include, but are not limited to, loss of wildlife habitat, decrease in property values, loss of desired and native vegetation, changes in water quantity or quality in riparian areas, and loss of productive rangeland or other agricultural areas. Numerous efforts continue to be implemented to combat noxious weeds across the state; however, new infestations or spreading of existing infestations are still occurring throughout Nevada. For this reason, it is imperative that all landowners and land managers implement noxious weed treatments throughout the upcoming season.

Per Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) Chapter 555, all landowners are responsible for controlling any noxious weeds found on their property. The Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) is given the regulatory authority to enforce these statutes. Per statute, the NDA may serve notice to any landowner to control noxious weeds. If a landowner does not respond to the notice by attempting appropriate control measures, then the state and county may implement an abatement. In recent years, the need for improved noxious weed management and the pressure to enforce state statutes has increased dramatically. There are many local organizations and programs in place to assist landowners with noxious weed identification, control, and treatments. Education, outreach, prevention, and treatment assistance continues to be the top priority for the NDA and other local organizations before the above regulatory actions would take place.

An imperative first step in successful management of noxious weeds is to have an



Perennial Pepperweed, an invasive weed found in the Carson River Watershed.

(Continued on page 6)

## Restoration of Streamside Habitat on the East Carson River

By Shane Fryer, Alpine Watershed Group



The Alpine Watershed Group (AWG), in partnership with Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest (USFS), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Friends of Hope Valley and Alpine County, was recently awarded a restoration grant from California State Parks' Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) program.

The OHMVR grant project will restore riparian habitat along the banks of the East Fork of the Carson River currently impacted by off-road vehicle travel associated with dispersed camping. All proposed restoration sites are located on USFS and BLM lands within Alpine County. The project area includes the reach of the East Fork from its confluence with Silver Creek to Hangman's Bridge just east of Markleeville. This reach of river is experiencing riparian habitat loss, bank erosion and associated water quality impacts, in part due to motor vehicle impacts. These rehabilitation efforts will further the protection of the riparian corridor by better defining vehicle access locations and restoring and replanting impacted areas.

The East Carson River Strategy completed by the Carson Ranger District of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest in 2007 addresses environmental concerns including vehicle impacts. This strategy identifies actions to enhance the management of lands in the East Carson River watershed. Of concern are the proliferation of user-created camping sites and roads, fire rings, and the accumulation of trash along the East Carson River corridor. Long term cumulative use has resulted in a loss of streamside and upslope vegetation. The strategy includes recommendations for enhancing the quality of recreational experiences and improving wildlife and fisheries habitat. To date, none of the projects recommended in this strategy have been implemented; this grant will help achieve a number of the recommended actions.

When complete, restoration activities will provide many recreational and environmental benefits. These include maintaining access to public lands and improving the sustainability of dispersed camping and other recreational uses along this reach of the East Fork. The rehabilitation of riparian habitat helps reduce silt and other water quality impacts to this economically important trout fishing reach. This project will greatly improve visitors' recreational experience at these sites and further the protection of this California designated Wild and Scenic River.

The Alpine Watershed Group is actively seeking partners who want to be a part of this important project that will benefit Alpine County visitors, fly fishermen, and watershed health while providing quality recreational opportunities. If you would like more information about the project or are interested in becoming a partner, please contact Shane Fryer at [awg.shane@gmail.com](mailto:awg.shane@gmail.com), or visit AWG's website: [www.alpinewatershedgroup.org](http://www.alpinewatershedgroup.org).



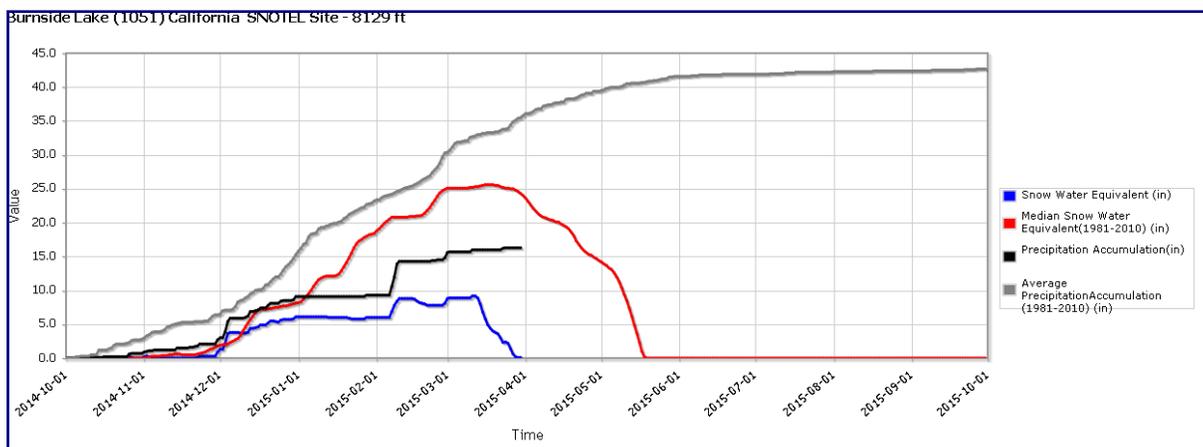
East Fork of the Carson River in Alpine County.  
Photo courtesy of Shane Fryer

## How Dry is Dry?

By Ed James, Carson Water Subconservancy District

2015 is turning out to be one of the driest years on record for the Carson River Watershed. Although there have been years which received less precipitation, this year's spring runoff from our dismal snowpack could be the worst on record. Warmer than usual temperatures throughout the area are compounding the problem. As of April 1, 2015, NOAA's volume forecast for the period of April through July at the Carson City gage will only be seven percent of average. Several Snotel Sites are recording record low snow pack for this time of year (See the Burnside Lake graph below). This means a very early runoff and very little water, if any, in the river by mid-summer. I believe the peak spring run-off has already occurred coming approximately two months early.

Agricultural producers and the environment will feel the brunt of the water shortage. All the water purveyors in the watershed should be able to meet their communities' water needs this summer, but some restrictions may be imposed. It is important to wisely use water, even if restrictions are not imposed in your area. Contact your water purveyor or CWSD to get tips on how to reduce your water use. Finally, as depressing as this water year may be, it is important to remember that we do not know if we are in the fourth year of a four-year drought or the fourth year of a 20+ year drought.



## Fostering Community Involvement in Alpine County's Weed Issues

By Nicole Lutkemuller, Alpine Watershed Group

The Alpine Watershed Group (AWG) hosted an Invasive Weeds presentation on February 25, 2015. A total of 14 watershed group members and local residents attended, including four AWG community partners: Alpine County Board of Supervisors, U.S. Forest Service, Washoe Tribe Community Council, and the Washoe Environmental Protection Department. The presentation reviewed some of the most common invasive weeds in Alpine County and gave an overview of current weed removal projects planned for the summer. AWG will be conducting future weed removal activities. To get involved please contact Nicole Lutkemuller at 530-694-2327 or [awg.nicole@gmail.com](mailto:awg.nicole@gmail.com).



## Solutions Emerge from Invasive Species Forum

By Courtney Walker, Carson Water Subconservancy District

CWSD coordinated an Invasive Species forum in February 2015 to discuss various invasive species management programs and promote coordinated efforts among participating entities. Approximately 30 partners from local, county, state, and federal agencies throughout the watershed attended, providing an opportunity for everyone to compare programs, explore partnership opportunities, and develop solutions to invasive species management on a watershed level.

Each attendee provided a round robin report about invasive species work being done by their agency including their:

- Role
- Funding sources
- Common invasive species
- Control mechanisms (chemical, biological, physical removal)
- Outreach and education efforts
- Challenges
- Successes

Common challenges that emerged included inadequate staffing and funding, and managing large land areas with multiple invasive species to control. Lack of noxious weeds control on adjacent properties (whether privately owned or owned by local, state, or federal government) was identified as the biggest treatment concern.



Jeff Begovich and Mike Hayes speaking to forum participants at the River Fork Ranch in Genoa, NV.

### An update on the Winter Weeds

Conference held in Ely, NV earlier this year revealed similar challenges. A possible solution formulated at that conference is to mandate counties to have a weed district/program and provide state funding to each county for this purpose. This could provide local level coordination; however, this solution would require legislative action. This issue will be further discussed at the upcoming Nevada Weed Management Association Conference to be held October 25-29, 2015, in Reno, Nevada.

To address treatment concerns on adjacent properties, the Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) may contact landowners and encourage them to work with the local weed management staff to complete weed treatments. The state can enforce weed treatment on private and public land if landowners fail to act; and NDA staff reported that in Douglas County in particular, they are actively pursuing this option.

Forum participants had the opportunity to network before the field trip to The Nature Conservancy's (TNC) River Fork Ranch in Genoa. Mike Hayes, Carson Valley Conservation District, and Jeff Begovich, Douglas County Weed District, gave an overview of river projects and noxious weed treatments conducted on TNC's property, a good example of a successful public and private partnership.

CWSD looks forward to continuing to work with our partners to find solutions to invasive species issues throughout the Watershed. Thanks to all our partners who attended the forum and field trip, and to Douglas County for providing the meeting space in their new Community Center.

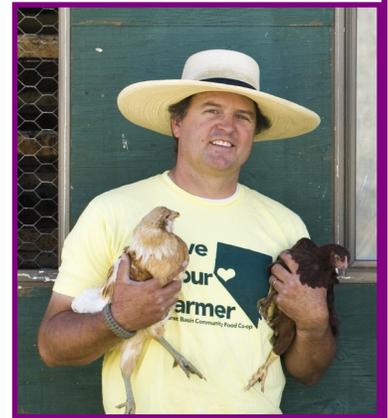
## Carson City Open Space & DVCD New Hires

By Debbie Neddenriep, Carson Water Subconservancy District



Congratulations to Rich Wilkinson on his new position as the Senior Natural Resource Specialist for Carson City Open Space. Formerly General Manager for Dayton Valley Conservation District, Rich is a great asset, and we are pleased his expertise will remain in our watershed! Rich grew up in Dayton and earned a B.S. in Environmental Resource Sciences with Major Emphasis in Forestry and Range Management from University of Nevada, Reno. He worked for Nevada State Parks for 12 years after he graduated from college and also owned and operated a small business for several years. Rich is a certified peace officer and an EMT. Contact Rich in his new position at (775) 283-7341 or [rwilkinson@carson.org](mailto:rwilkinson@carson.org).

Rob Holley is the new District Manager for the Dayton Valley Conservation District. Rob was raised on the north shore of Lake Tahoe before moving to Carson City as a teenager. After graduating from the University of Nevada, Reno with a B.S. in Secondary Education (major in biology and minor in chemistry), Rob enjoyed a 20-year career with Nevada State Parks. In 1970, his father and grandfather began ranching along the Carson River in Dayton Valley. Rob and his family now live on the ranch where they raise cattle, pigs, and poultry, along with certified organic hay and vegetables. We look forward to working with Rob in his new role. Contact Rob at (775) 246-1999 or [rholley.dvcd@yahoo.com](mailto:rholley.dvcd@yahoo.com).



## Welcome to New Board Members

By Debbie Neddenriep, Carson Water Subconservancy District



CWSD is pleased to welcome Brad Bonkowski and Chuck Roberts to the CWSD board. Brad Bonkowski, a Carson City Supervisor, was appointed to serve as a CWSD Board Member in January 2015. Brad has lived in northern Nevada for 35 years and has been a business owner in Carson City since 1986 and a Supervisor since 2012. Brad currently owns a commercial real estate brokerage firm. Prior to his real estate career, Brad owned and operated photo labs in Carson City, Reno, and Incline Village. Brad loves to hunt, fish, bicycle, run, snowshoe, hike, and kayak with his partner, Andie Wilson, and their three children, Zachary, Kyle and Mallory.

Chuck Roberts returned to the CWSD board after being appointed by the Lyon County Board of Commissioners January 2015. Chuck is a 25 year resident of Lyon County, who owns and manages a manufacturing business in Lyon County. Over the years, he served as Lyon County Commissioner in addition to volunteering on many advisory committees in Lyon County. Chuck currently serves on the Dayton Valley Conservation District board, and the Carson Truckee Water Conservancy District board, and as a volunteer fireman. He resides in Lyon County with his family.

CWSD staff looks forward to working with Mr. Bonkowski and Mr. Roberts.



## River Wranglers Looking for Education Assistant

By Linda Conlin, River Wranglers

Do you enjoy working with kids, teaching them to be stewards of the Carson River? River Wranglers is searching for a creative, high energy, self-motivated individual to assist with the variety of environmental education activities in the Carson River Watershed!

Salary \$18/hour, benefits not included  
Flexible schedule, ~ 12-15 hours per week  
[See job description at www.cwsd.org](http://www.cwsd.org)  
Send cover letter and resume to  
Linda Conlin by April 24, 2015  
775.230.0633  
[nevadariverwranglers@yahoo.com](mailto:nevadariverwranglers@yahoo.com)



## Noxious Weeds are Landowner's Responsibility

By Jamie Greer, Nevada Department of Agriculture

(Continued from page 1)

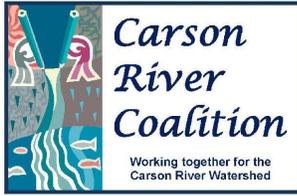
accurate inventory of infestations. To report invasions or to look up noxious weed infestations in your area, the NDA has released a new mapping and data collection tool referred to as [www.eddmaps.org/west](http://www.eddmaps.org/west). This website is a national database for invasive plants in the West. You can easily report using the free EDDMaps West smart phone app, identify noxious weeds, find current distribution of noxious weeds at various levels, create email alerts when a specific species of concern is reported near you, and maintain your own report database. Individual log-ins allow users to set a privacy layer in order to track weeds on private land. EDDMaps West also has a link to NDA's website under Nevada contacts where you'll find Nevada's Noxious weed list and plant identification brochure.



Access EDDMaps  
with QR Code for  
your smartphone!

For more information on noxious weed statutes or the above mapping tools please contact Jamie Greer, NDA Noxious Weed Program Coordinator, at 775-353-3640 or [jgreer@agri.nv.gov](mailto:jgreer@agri.nv.gov).

Carson Water Subconservancy District Presents



# Floodplain Management Forum

April 22, 2015 9:00 am—3:30 pm  
Doors Open 8:30 am

Dayton Valley Community Center  
Old Town Dayton

Join us for a day of  
Technical Discussions  
about projects/programs in  
the  
Carson River Watershed

**Keynote Speaker:**  
**Rob Palmer,**  
Nevada State Floodplain  
Manager

- Topics and posters include:
- ⇒ Flood and Floodplain Restoration Projects
  - ⇒ FEMA Floodplain Mapping
  - ⇒ NOAA Flood Inundation Mapping Program
  - ⇒ Clear Creek Stormwater Projects
  - ⇒ Truckee River Flood Project
  - ⇒ Outreach programs



Photo courtesy of Laura Crane

**Registration includes lunch and snacks!**  
Send **\$10.00 check by April 15, 2015**, or  
\$15.00 after April 15, 2015, with your registration form  
to CWSD at the address below. **See reverse or go  
to [www.cwsd.org](http://www.cwsd.org) to download a registration**

CWSD  
777 E. William St., #110A  
Carson City, NV 89701  
Phone: (775) 887-7450

# We hope you can join us!

**CRC Floodplain Management Forum on  
Earth Day - April 22, 2015** - Dayton  
Community Center, Old Town Dayton,  
Nevada. Download [flyer/registration](#) or  
contact Toni at 775.887.7450

**UNCE Landscape Training in English  
and Spanish - April 22 and 29, 2015** -  
4955 Energy Way, Reno. [View webpage](#) or  
call 775.784.4848 (English), or 775.787.2000  
(Spanish).

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# Upcoming Watershed Events!

**UNCE Living with Drought Workshops**  
- April 13, 15, 29 & May 13, 2015 in  
locations throughout watershed. Register at  
[www.livingwithdrought.com](http://www.livingwithdrought.com). Contact John  
Cobourn 775.336.0244

**UNCE Capital City Farm Days-April 16**  
**-17, 2015** - Fuji Park, Carson City, Nevada.  
Contact Sandi Wallin at  
[wallins@unce.unr.edu](mailto:wallins@unce.unr.edu) or 775.887.2252.  
(continued below)

Carson Water Subconservancy District Presents

## Get on the Bus! June 9-10, 2015



8:30 am—4:30 pm daily

## Carson River Watershed Tour



We'll tour annual favorites including the  
*Hope Valley, Dangberg Home Ranch  
Historic Park, TNC's River Fork Ranch,  
Lahontan Dam, and Stillwater!*

Come explore the Carson River  
Watershed on a 2-day bus tour from  
Headwater to Terminus  
*Videos and discussions will keep  
your time on the bus lively and  
informative.\**

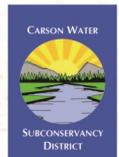


\*CEU credits  
available for  
teachers and  
planners (AICP),  
and PDH hours for  
Engineers

Register early to ensure your seat:  
\$120 by May 18, 2015 or \$140 after May 18, 2015  
Make checks payable to CWSD (non-refundable after June 1, 2015)  
See reverse or go to [www.cwsd.org](http://www.cwsd.org) for a registration form



Contact: CWSD  
777 E. William St., #110A  
Carson City, NV 89701  
Phone: (775) 887-7450

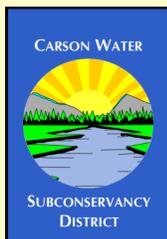


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### Upcoming Events—continued

**Fallon Paiute Shoshone Earth Day Celebration - April 25, 2015** - Fallon, Nevada. Contact Caleb Kondor, [Caleb@enviro-fpst.org](mailto:Caleb@enviro-fpst.org) or 775.423.0590.

**UNCE Weed Extravaganza IX - April 28-30, 2015** - California Trails Interpretive Center, Elko, Nevada. **Featured Speaker Dr. Joe DiTomaso!** No registration fee, RSVP by 4/23 to Candie Kevan [kevanc@unce.unr.edu](mailto:kevanc@unce.unr.edu) or 775.738.7291.

**Spring Wings Festival - May 16, 2015** - Churchill County Parks & Recreation Facility, Fallon Nevada. Contact [Susan\\_Sawyer@fws.gov](mailto:Susan_Sawyer@fws.gov) or 775.423.5128x228

**Proper Functioning Condition for Professionals training course - May 18-22, 2015 - Carson City/Reno (TBD).** **Course Description** Contact Sherm Swanson 775.784.4057 or [sswanson@cabnr.unr.edu](mailto:sswanson@cabnr.unr.edu)

**UNCE Weed Warrior Training - May 20-21, 2015** - Reno, Nevada. Cost \$50, Contact Melody Hefner at 775.336.0247 or [hefnerm@unce.unr.edu](mailto:hefnerm@unce.unr.edu)

**Monarch Butterfly Native Plant Workshop - May 23, 2015** - Washoe Nursery, Carson City, Nevada. Contact Michelle Hunt at 775.861.6341 or [michelle\\_hunt@fws.gov](mailto:michelle_hunt@fws.gov)

**Carson River Festival at Oodles of Noodles Cook Off - June 13, 2015** - Old Town Dayton, Nevada. Contact Linda Conlin 775.230.0633 or [nevadariverwranglers@yahoo.com](mailto:nevadariverwranglers@yahoo.com)

**Waters of the Western Great Basin Educator Symposium - June 16-17, 2015** - Reno Peppermill Resort. Contact Mary Kay Wagner (775) 687-9449 [Symposium Registration form](#)



<https://www.facebook.com/carsonriver>

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